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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Soviet Troops in Szombathely
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1. From May 1953 through mid June, Soviet troops were slowly withdrawn from Szombathely, taking their materiel with them. Summer camps were set up in the neighborhood of the town, to which the troops were sent in company and battalion units.
2. From various details the picture of the summer exercises was that the troops appeared to be withdrawing slowly eastward under heavy pressure. The men occupied defensive positions and conducted maneuvers within them. Szombathely, Köszeg and Körmend were slowly evacuated, with various small units remaining in the neighborhood, mostly guard units and recruits under training. Noticeably more troops remained close up to the Austrian border than in former years.
3. In Szombathely itself there was a great deal of military traffic, especially around the gasoline depot, indicating that the troops on maneuvers were being supplied from the town.
4. From the beginning of the summer on, there were heavy convoys of provisions moving from Budapest.
5. In mid-Oct 1953 the building of the former Hungarian corps command was occupied by Soviet command and support organizations with about 85 or 90 persons, including 65 Soviet officers.
6. At the communications barracks there is a Soviet telephone central, and two radio cars in the courtyard. The service personnel numbers 65 or 70, and the place is guarded by a detail from another unit. Besides the radio cars, it has four trucks, one truck with cable drums and three jeeps.

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7. At the infantry barracks there have been for months only 80 or 90 soldiers belonging to a guard company.
8. At the cavalry barracks there is also a guard company of 95 or 100 men, mostly occupied in maintenance. The artillery barracks was guarded by a reinforced platoon of 55 or 65 men. At the gendarmerie barracks there was a guard platoon of 50 or 60 men, all old soldiers. All the seized schools were evacuated for the summer, except for guard details.
9. The Hotel Sabaria was operated for the benefit of transient ~~Soviet~~ officers.
10. The Soviet military hospital was crowded, and many soldiers reported sick before the summer maneuvers. Several suicide attempts were reported. There was a good deal of discontent among older soldiers over not receiving their promised discharges, and the MVD was called in to examine cases of men reporting sick.
11. At the provisions depot in Söptei Street, there was heavy traffic. [REDACTED]
12. At the gasoline depot in Söptei Street there was also great activity, much gasoline coming in drums marked "MASZOVOL." [REDACTED] observed: [REDACTED]
13. The tanks and trucks remaining in the town were concentrated in St. Stefan Park. [REDACTED]
- There were 37 trucks and five T-34/85 tanks, bearing numbers beginning with 1... There were also seven SP guns, [REDACTED]

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